AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the instant application. Claims 21, 22 and 29-31 have been amended to further clarify the language used in the claims and to further prosecution of the application. The Applicant submits that claims 1-31 define patentable subject matter in view of the following claim amendments and arguments.

Listing of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A server, comprising:

a network connector;

a processor coupled to the network connector, the processor operable to process a plurality of different types of network traffic;

a peripheral component interface (PCI) bridge coupled to the processor; and

a unified driver coupled to the PCI bridge, the unified driver operable to provide drivers associated with the plurality of different types of network traffic.

2. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the network connector comprises an Ethernet connector.

3. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of different types of network traffic comprises two or more of common Ethernet traffic, offload traffic, storage traffic, interprocess

communication (IPC) traffic, management traffic and/or remote direct memory access (RDMA) traffic.

4. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor comprises a single integrated chip.

5. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor comprises a layer 2 network interface card (L2 NIC), a transmission control protocol (TCP) processor and a ULP processor.

6. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the TCP processor provides layer 3 processing and layer 4 processing.

7. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the TCP processor is shared by two or more of TCP offload traffic, Internet small computer system interface (iSCSI) traffic and/or RDMA traffic.

8. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the ULP processor provides iSCSI processing.

9. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the ULP processor provides RDMA processing.

10. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, comprising:

a server management agent coupled to the processor.

11. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the server management agent is coupled to a keyboard and/or video and/or mouse service.

12. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, comprising:

a plurality of services coupled to the unified driver.

13. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of services comprises two or more of a socket service, a SCSI miniport service, an RDMA service and/or a keyboard and/or video and/or mouse service.

14. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1,

wherein the unified driver is coupled to a software TCP processor and to a socket service switch,

wherein the software TCP processor is coupled to the socket service switch, and

wherein the socket service switch is coupled to a socket service.

15. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor or the PCI bridge determines which of the different types of network traffic accesses a particular service provided by the server.

16. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 15, wherein the particular service comprises one or more of a socket service, a SCSI miniport service, an RDMA service and/or a keyboard and/or video and/or mouse service.

17. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor, the PCI bridge or the unified driver provides a unified data and control path.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for network interfacing, comprising:

handling a plurality of different types of network traffic via a layer 2 (L2) connector;

processing the different types of network traffic in a single chip; and

determining which of the different types of network traffic accesses software services via a single data path.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the plurality of different types of network traffic comprises two or more of common Ethernet traffic, offload traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, management traffic and/or remote direct memory access (RDMA) traffic.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the L2 connector is a single L2 connector.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein ~~(c)~~ said determining which of the different types of network traffic accesses software services via a single data path comprises employing time division multiplexing to determine which of the different types of network traffic access the software services via the single data path.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein ~~(c)~~ said determining which of the different types of network traffic accesses software services via a single data path comprises dynamically allocating fixed resources between among the different types of network traffic.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, comprising:

providing drivers associated with the plurality of different types of network traffic via a unified driver.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for network interfacing, comprising:

handling a plurality of different types of network traffic via a single Ethernet connector;

processing the plurality of different types of network traffic using a layer 2 (L2) processor, a layer 3 (L3) processor, a layer 4 (L4) processor and an upper layer protocol (ULP) processor; and

providing a unified data and control path.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the L2 processor comprises a single L2 network interface card (NIC).

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the L3 processor and the L4 processor are combined into a single TCP processor.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the ULP processor comprises one or both of an Internet small computer system

interface (iSCSI) processor and/or a remote direct memory access (RDMA) processor.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, comprising:

providing drivers associated with the plurality of different types of network traffic via a single unified driver.

29. (Currently Amended) A unified driver embodied as a computer program on a computer system, having at least one code section for arranging and processing network traffic, the at least one code section being executable by the computer system for causing the computer system to perform steps comprising: executing said at least one code section from said unified driver ~~a single software driver~~ to handle a plurality of different types of network traffics and/or network services via a single PCI bridge, the network services comprise[[s]] two or more of a socket service, storage service, RDMA service or keyboard/video/mouse service.

30. (Currently Amended) The unified driver computer program on a computer system of claim 29, ~~wherein said unified driver couples~~ comprising coupling to an integrated chip to concurrently process a plurality of network traffics.

31. (Currently Amended) The unified driver computer program on a computer system of claim 30, wherein said plurality of network traffics comprise[[s]] two or more of offload traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, management traffic and/or remote direct memory access (RDMA) traffic.